

Subject: Leon DEGRELL

Report No: OSM 426

Date of Information: 15 May 1954

Place Acquired: Spain, Madrid

Date Acquired: 21 May 1954

Evaluation: B-3

Date of Report: 14 September 1954

Source: Individual with police contacts

1. Leon DEGRELL, a Belgian citizen whose World War II activities as a collaborator with the Germans and as head of the Belgian Fascists is widely known, fled to Spain when the end of the war was approaching. His plane landed on the beach of La Concha in San Sebastian, and in the landing DEGRELL suffered a broken leg. He was hospitalized in San Sebastian. A few days later he disappeared from the hospital. The Spanish police pretended to look for him, but time passed and his exact whereabouts remained unknown. It was rumored that he had gone to South American and again to Portugal, but this was never verified. The story persisted that he had never left Spain and that he was being protected by the Falange.

2. Source had heard nothing more about DEGRELL during the past few years until recently, when a friend from the small village of Constantina, in the province of Sevilla, told him casually that DEGRELL was living in Constantina. He said that DEGRELL has a magnificent ranch, called "La Torre," a few kilometers from the village. The walls fencing in the property are very curious and attract the attention of the local inhabitants because large jars, of the type in which wine or olive oil is stored, are set in the angles of the walls.

3. According to source's friend, DEGRELL enjoys considerable prestige with the local authorities and can often be seen out walking with the mayor and the captain of the Civil Guard. He is visited by many friends from elsewhere.

4. He is also greatly esteemed by the people of the village because more than once he has given a recommendation to someone who had a problem to resolve with the government, either in Sevilla or Madrid, and the results had always been satisfactory, thanks to the intervention of DEGRELL.

Classification
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

SECRET

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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

(2)(A) Privacy ☐

(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒

(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐